

THE WONDER BOOK of EMPIRE



British Dominions, Colonies, Protectorates & Possessions

Areas in square miles and populations are given in round figures.

A Map of the Empire faces page 248.

The **total area of the British Empire**, exclusive of former German and Turkish possessions, is estimated at 13,153,712 square miles, the **total inhabitants** at 435,000,000, of whom about 60,000,000 are whites. The total land area of the world is estimated at 55,500,000 square miles and the total population at 1,646,000,000. About a quarter of the land area and more than a quarter of the world's inhabitants are therefore comprised in the British Empire.

Moreover, as a result of the Great War, Great Britain and her Dominions have assumed responsibility, under the mandate of the League of Nations, for further areas totalling over 800,000 square miles, with populations estimated at nearly 13 millions (see p. 264). And in addition the British flag now protects Palestine and Mesopotamia, formerly under the sway of the Turks.

In Europe and the Mediterranean.

	Area.	Population.
British Isles	121,400	46,400,000
Gibraltar	2	20,000
Malta and Gozo	120	211,000
Cyprus	3,800	307,000

In North America.

Canada	3,730,000	7,200,000
Newfoundland	42,750	240,000
Labrador	120,000	4,000

In Central America.

British Honduras	8,600	40,500
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In South America.

British Guiana	90,300	310,000
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The West Indies.

Jamaica	4,200	850,000
Trinidad and Tobago	1,860	330,000
Bahamas	4,400	56,000
Leeward Islands	750	140,000
Windward Islands	510	200,000
Barbados	170	196,000

In the Atlantic Ocean.

Bermudas	20	19,000
Ascension	34	150
St. Helena	47	3,500
Falkland Islands and South Georgia	7,500	3,250

In the Indian Ocean.

Mauritius	720	370,000
Seychelles Islands	150	23,000
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3,000	25,000
The Laccadive, Keeling (or Cocos) and other island groups	—	35,000

LIST OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS

In Asia.

	Area.	Population.
Indian Empire	1,900,000	315,000,000
Ceylon	25,500	4,100,000
Aden, Perim, Socotra, etc.	80	46,000
Straits Settlements	1,660	700,000
Federated Malay States	27,700	1,000,000
Other Malay States	14,200	800,000
Hong Kong	390	440,000
Wei-Hai-Wei	300	160,000
British North Borneo	31,100	204,000
Brunei	4,000	30,000
Sarawak	50,000	650,000

In Australasia.

Australia	3,063,000	4,872,000
Papua	90,540	360,000
New Zealand and Annexed Islands	103,900	1,084,000
Fiji and other Pacific Islands	20,000	330,000

In Africa.

Union of South Africa	473,000	6,000,000
Rhodesia	450,000	1,630,000
Basutoland	11,000	405,000
Bechuanaland	275,000	125,000
Swaziland	6,536	100,000
Somaliland	68,000	300,000
Walvisch Bay	430	3,000
Uganda	223,000	2,500,000
British East Africa	182,000	4,000,000
Nyasaland	300,000	1,000,000
Egypt	400,000	12,000,000
Sudan	1,000,000	2,000,000
Zanzibar and Pemba	1,000	200,000
Gambia	4,000	146,000
Gold Coast	80,000	1,400,000
Sierra Leone	34,000	1,100,000
Nigeria	334,000	17,000,000

Former German Overseas Possessions

now controlled by Great Britain or her Dominions under mandate of the League of Nations.

In Africa..	Area.	Population.	Administered by
German South-West Africa	322,200	165,000	Union of South Africa.
German East Africa	384,180	7,665,000	Great Britain.
Togoland	33,700	1,033,000	Great Britain and France.
Cameroons	291,950	3,542,000	Great Britain and France.

In the Pacific.

German New Guinea	70,000	350,000	Commonwealth of Australia.
Bismarck Archipelago	15,000	45,000	Commonwealth of Australia.
Solomon Isles	4,200	43,000	Dominion of New Zealand.
Samoan Isles	1,260	43,000	Dominion of New Zealand.



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA



RHODESIA



MAURITIUS



SIERRA LEONE



GOLD COAST



NYASALAND



EAST AFRICA
PROTECTORATE



MALAY STATES



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS



BRITISH
NORTH BORNEO



CYPRUS



MALTA



GIBRALTAR

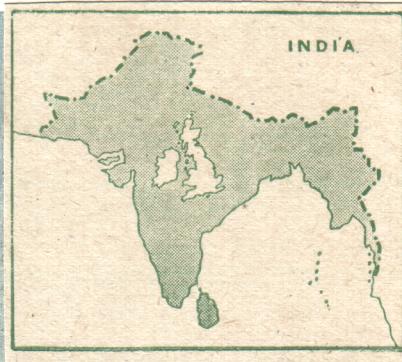
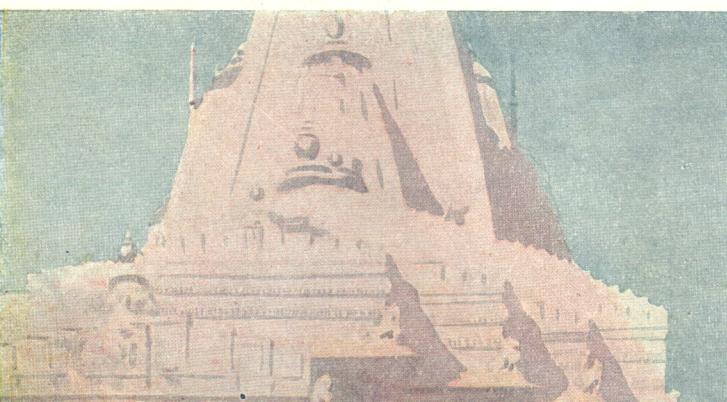


GREAT BRITAIN

HUDSON'S MEETING WITH THE INDIANS.

Henry Hudson, the daring explorer after whom the great Bay in Canada is named, may well rank as a founder of Empire. The picture shows his tiny vessel, *The Half Moon*, anchored in the Hudson River. The Indians, greatly amazed, were at first hostile, but afterwards traded. The vessel is shown flying the Dutch flag because it was fitted out at the expense of the Dutch East India Company in the hope of finding a north-east passage to India.





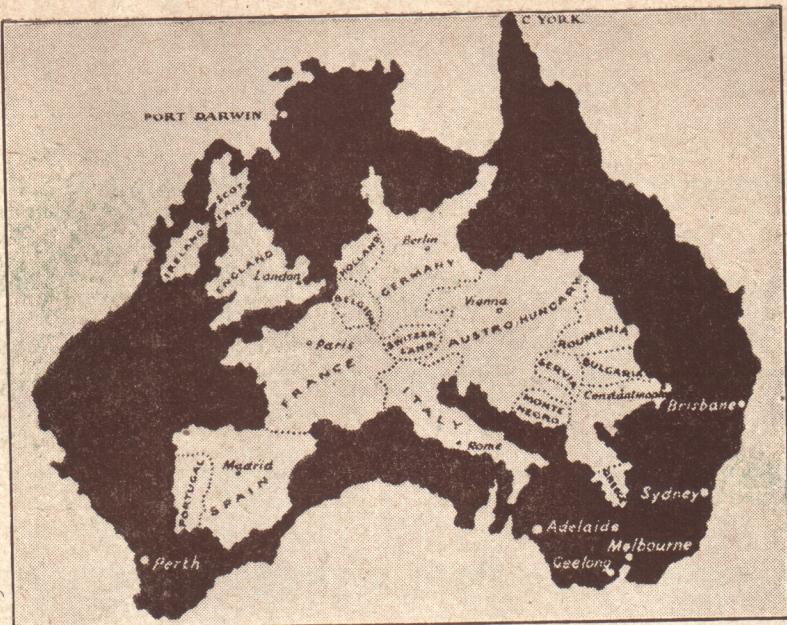
INDIA WOULD CONTAIN THE BRITISH ISLES NEARLY FIFTEEN TIMES.



GOING TO THE FESTIVAL.

THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GHIZEH.



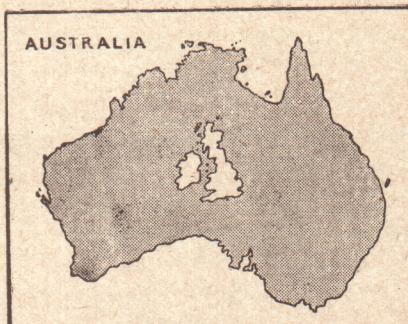


Australia is so vast that it would contain quite easily the whole of Europe, except a portion of Russia.

Sunny Australia The All-British Continent

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OF the world's great continents Australia is the only one that is under a single flag—and that flag the Union Jack. People in the Homeland often do not realize how huge is this Empire Continent. It is exceeded in size, it is true, by Canada, but, as our map partly shows, the whole of Europe with the exception of a portion of Russia, could be comfortably placed within its borders and still leave a considerable margin. Yet its population is under five millions, or just about the number under the control of the London County Council! Fortunately, 97 in every 100 of these five millions are from the Homeland, or descendants of settlers from our own shores, so that Australia is really and truly "All-British."



The Continent of Australia would contain the British Isles twenty-five times. In addition there is the island State of Tasmania, which is more than half the size of England.



[British Official.]

FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT ALLENBY'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM, DECEMBER 11, 1917.

OUR WIDENED EMPIRE

A FEW FACTS CONCERNING THE FORMER GERMAN COLONIES

THE terrible War of 1914-1918 had many consequences which were certainly not foreseen by the foolish rulers and statesmen who deliberately brought it about. In Europe itself new nations have been called into being, and old ones like Poland restored, while Germany and her Allies have been deprived of valuable territories to which they had no manner of right. Important as these changes are, however, it is doubtful whether in the long run they will mean as much to the world at large as the loss by Germany of every one of her overseas possessions, most of which, by the terms of the Peace Treaty, pass by mandate of the League of Nations under the control of Great Britain

OUR WIDENED EMPIRE

or her Dominions, and having thus become in a sense parts of the British Empire, demand inclusion in this volume. In addition, there are wide tracts of the former Turkish dominions, such as Palestine and Mesopotamia, which are administered by Great Britain.

All the German colonies together comprised at the outbreak of war an area of 1,027,820 square miles, roughly speaking, nearly nine times the area of the British Isles, and almost five times that of the former German Empire in Europe. Of this vast area and other regions belonging to Germany's Allies in the War, something like



[E. N. A.]

A NATIVE MOHAMMEDAN MOSQUE, BUILT OF WATTLE AND MUD, TOGOLAND.

800,000 square miles have been added, to use Mr. Lloyd George's words, to the "already gigantic charge which now rests upon the shoulders of the Empire." The populations of the various German colonies numbered nearly fifteen millions, and produced for Germany several million pounds' worth of material such as a modern European Power requires—cotton, oil, fruits, rubber, cocoa, coffee—taking in return German manufactured goods worth at least as much.

We shall do well to remember that Germany was quite a newcomer among Colonial Powers. The British Empire took hundreds of years to establish; the Germans acquired their great dominions in

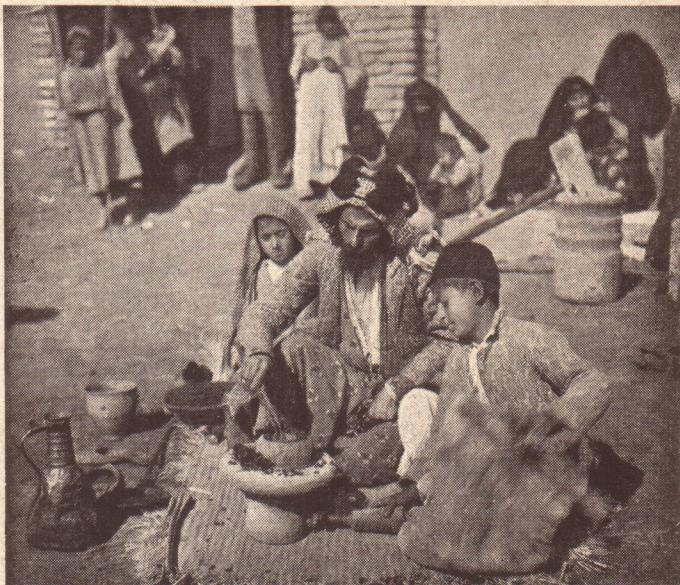
TWO BIBLE LANDS

Germany is not the only Power to find herself lessened by the Great War. Her Ally, Turkey, is left in a plight even worse, having lost the greater part of her Empire. Under the terms of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, made in 1920, Great Britain has become administrator for Mesopotamia until the inhabitants are ready for self-government, and has also assumed responsibility for the Holy Land. It was in Mesopotamia and Palestine that we brought Turkey to her knees.

MESOPOTAMIA

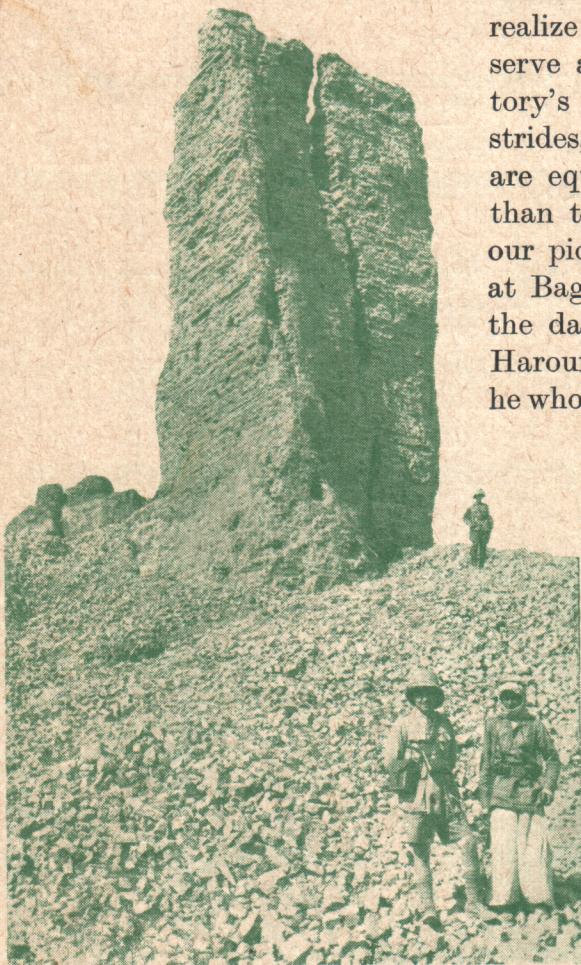
Our reason for fighting in Mesopotamia can be given in one word—India. The Turkish railway extended to Baghdad, and it would have been easy to continue it five hundred miles to the sea, when, with German co-operation, a submarine base could have been established upon the Persian Gulf. We forestalled this by attacking the Turks, but our start was discouraging. General Townshend, with insufficient forces, and lacking the equipment that experience proved to be necessary, made a dash for Baghdad, but was compelled to fall back, and, being shut up in Kut-el-Amara, surrendered after a fierce and prolonged resistance. And then came General Maude, a great fighter and an even greater organizer, who captured Baghdad, where unfortunately he died from disease. His successor, General Marshall, pushing north, forced the Turkish Army, which was cut off from escape in that direction by our occupation of Aleppo, to surrender.

Mesopotamia, and we include in that term Lower Mesopotamia, the Turkish province of Irak Arabi, is of



[British Official.]

A SILVERSMITH, MESOPOTAMIA.



THE TOWER OF BABEL.

[British Official.]

Tradition points to this ruin as the identical tower referred to in the Bible story.

as remains of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon would be to-day. What an extensive retrospect to have Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon in the middle distance only !

Mesopotamia means "between the two rivers," that is between the Tigris and the Euphrates, and with Lower Mesopotamia includes all the territory within the rivers, from the lower slopes of the Armenian mountains to the Persian Gulf. Within this compass is an area roughly equal to that of England and Wales, the soil, although sandy, being wonderfully fertile under irrigation. In ancient times it was the

immense antiquity. How old we can realize from our two pictures, which serve as stepping-stones back to history's very dawn. The first two strides, long enough in all conscience, are equal ; but the third is greater than the first two together. With our picture of the Bridge of Boats at Baghdad we step right back to the days of the Arabian Nights and Haroun Al Rashid, because it was he who first connected the two banks

by a bridge of boats. When

Haroun Al Rashid and his vizier wandered seeking adventures through the moonlit and dreaming streets of Baghdad there was a buried city beneath. Rawlinson, in 1848, discovered at Baghdad whole walls below the river level, every brick of which bore the stamp of Nebuchadnezzar, who links with our other picture, because it is recorded that he tried to restore and complete the ruined Tower of Babel, which would be of as great antiquity then

PALESTINE

world's granary. Even in its decline Babylonia supplied one-third of the grain grown in the empire of Xerxes. The inhabitants are mostly Arabs and Kurds, many of whom are nomads, wandering from place to place with their sheep, goats and camels. Others cultivate the soil in what it would be an idle compliment to call a primitive fashion, merely scratching the surface, which, nevertheless, yields fair crops of cereals and fruits. Tobacco also is grown in some districts. Baghdad city is green with date palms; but the vast plains around are treeless, the monotony being broken often by mounds, melancholy reminders of the buried glories beneath. Baghdad trades with Aleppo and Damascus, and has manufactures of leather and silk.

Such being the country, what are we going to make of it? Some people, impressed by Baghdad's bustle during the War, and excited by the prospect of electric trams in her streets, see arising on the banks of the Tigris another Chicago. But war-time prosperity withers as rapidly as it grows. The frightful heat of its summer prevents Mesopotamia from becoming a White Man's Country, and its natives prefer to make haste slowly. But at any rate we can improve enormously upon Turkey's record, and Mesopotamia, when we have fashioned it to our liking, will be a different land from the one we received in trust from the Great Powers.

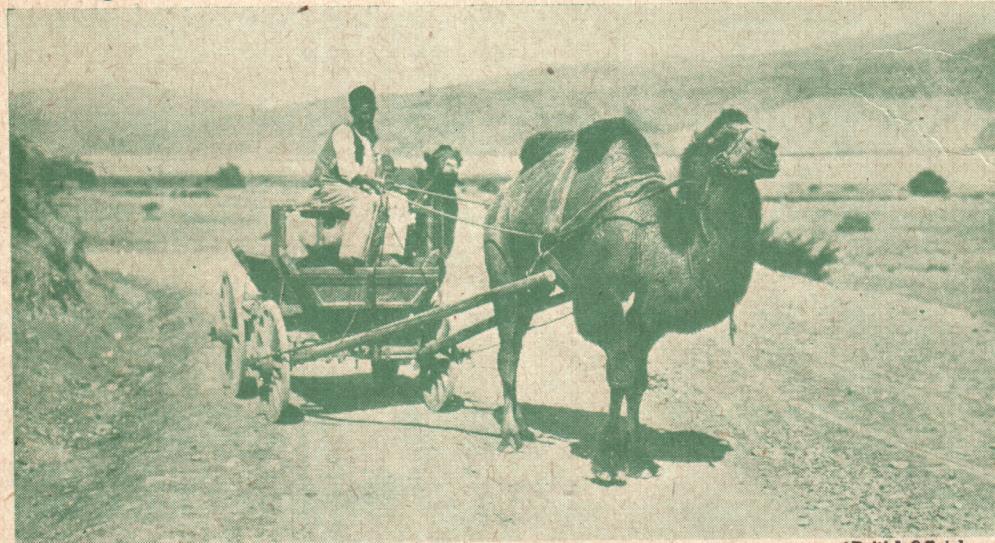
PALESTINE

Our campaign in the Holy Land was upon a much greater scale. The Turks opened the ball with an attempt to capture the Suez Canal, but were repulsed, and the tide of battle rolled back to Palestine, where it was stayed for a time in front of Jerusalem. Here, in December, 1917, General Allenby won a splendid victory, to which all arms contributed, but Londoners may feel a legitimate pride that it was the Cockneys—the famous 60th Division—who took the sacred City. In September of the next year Allenby, feinting on the Turkish left, swung the bulk of his force towards the coast, where he rolled up the Turkish right wing, and in unrelenting pursuit (the Turks were never again given time to dig themselves in) captured nearly a hundred thousand prisoners and five hundred guns. Our forces were greatly helped in rounding up the fugitives by the Arabs from Mecca, who put into the field during the war a large number of men, mostly mounted irregulars, the regular infantry consisting entirely of deserters from the Turkish armies.

Throughout General Allenby was careful to avoid any suggestion of Cross *v.* Crescent ; but when the great guns were roaring over the battlefields of Richard I and Godfrey de Bouillon, it was impossible for us not to rejoice that the dreams of the Crusaders were being realized, of the final chasing of the Turks—

“ from those holy fields
Over whose acres walked those sacred feet
Which many hundred years ago were nailed
For our advantage to the bitter Cross.”

Palestine and Syria are contained in a narrow strip of land not more than a hundred miles across at its broadest, hemmed in between the Levant and the Arabian desert. It is this desert which has made these countries the cock-pit of antiquity, the great civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia (Nineveh and Babylon), using them as a highway for their conquering hosts. Parallel to the line of the coast are two ranges of mountains, and between these lie the Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee. While Syria and Palestine together have an area roughly equal to that of England and Wales, Palestine alone is not so large as Wales. In two products Palestine is very favoured—honey and oranges, Jaffa oranges being exported in millions of boxes, and the country, owing to its varied flora, being a paradise to the bee. In places the land is very fertile, and parts at present uncultivated, such as the Jordan Valley, are only waiting for irrigation.



[British Official.]

THE WONDER Book of Empire FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

“If England has made the Empire, equally the Empire has made England.”

Sir Charles P. Lucas, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.



Photo

W. & D. Downey.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING-EMPEROR.

WITH FIFTEEN COLOUR PLATES
AND OVER THREE HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS

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1925

SIXTH EDITION

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